

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF THE GEOMETRID GENUS  
*OPHTHALMOPHORA*.

BY ARTHUR G. BUTLER, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c.

The following species was in a series of moths from Petropolis (Rio Janeiro), recently presented to the British Museum collection by Lord Walsingham.

*OPHTHALMOPHORA BRACTEATA*, *sp. n.*

Near to *O. corinnaria*, *formosante*, and *bella*, of the same drab colour, but differing from all three in the absence of the white internal border and more acutely produced apex of the primaries; these wings have the costal border creamy-white, and the fringe silvery-white; the secondaries are greyish-white towards the base of the costa; the usual ocellus is large, black, with the centre of embossed silver and the iris of creamy-white; the curved line which partly encircles it is like that of *O. corinnaria*, but more slender, and formed of detached dashes of tarnished silver; there is no second ocellus as in that species and *O. bella*, the fringe is white; the body is grey, the thorax slightly brownish, the frons drab, the collar white; the under-surface is of a pale greyish drab colour, the pectus pearly-whitish.

Expanse of wings, 34 mm.

Petropolis, Rio Janeiro (*H. Doer*).

British Museum:

November 25th, 1884.

ON THE RECENT DISCOVERY OF THE WING OF A COCKROACH  
IN ROCKS BELONGING TO THE SILURIAN PERIOD.

BY HERBERT GOSS, F.L.S.

Up to December last the most ancient fossil insects known were the six fragments of *Neuroptera* obtained by Mr. C. F. Hartt, from the Devonian rocks of New Brunswick, which were described by Mr. Scudder, in vols. iv and v of the Geological Magazine, and referred to by me in my paper "On the Insecta of the Devonian Period," in vol. xv of this Magazine.

In the paper just cited, I observed that the appearance of insects on the earth was probably contemporaneous with that of land plants, and as remains of this division of the vegetable kingdom had been discovered in rocks of the Silurian period, the existence of a land flora ages before the date at which the Devonian insects lived was proved; and consequently that the probability of the first appearance of insects at an earlier period than the Devonian might be assumed.

The recent discovery of the wing of a cockroach in rocks of